

Introduced by Senator Lieu

April 22, 2013

Senate Joint Resolution No. 10—Relative to the Workforce Investment Act.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SJR 10, as introduced, Lieu. Workforce Investment Act: reauthorization by the United States Congress.

This measure would urge the Congress of the United States to reauthorize the federal Workforce Investment Act and to include specified policies and strategies in support of the act.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Over 8 million people were served nationally by
2 the public workforce system funded by the federal Workforce
3 Investment Act (WIA) (29 U.S.C. Sec. 2801 et seq.), a 234 percent
4 increase in participation rates in just two years; and

5 WHEREAS, Over 4.3 million WIA participants found jobs
6 through the public workforce system; and

7 WHEREAS, The policy of investing in a highly productive
8 workforce through programs that foster skills, attainment, and
9 human capital development is important to ensure that California
10 and the United States can compete in the global economy; and

11 WHEREAS, The policy of investing in programs that foster
12 skills attainment and human capital development is important for
13 achieving employment, economic security, and opportunities for
14 career advancement and upward mobility for WIA service
15 recipients; and

1 WHEREAS, While the national economy is beginning to expand,
2 there continue to be areas of high unemployment throughout
3 California that are lagging behind the nation's recovery from the
4 recession; and

5 WHEREAS, The federal budget for Fiscal Year 2010 and going
6 forward has reduced available funding for an array of national
7 workforce programs targeting dislocated workers, low-income
8 adults, veterans, disconnected young adults, and other highly
9 vulnerable groups in the labor market; and

10 WHEREAS, The Department of Labor has been extremely
11 supportive of operating and evaluating the Adult and Dislocated
12 Workers Program and Youth Employment and Youth Build
13 programs; and

14 WHEREAS, Policies need to be established to ensure program
15 responsiveness to the needs of employers, workers, and students
16 who benefit from investment in the workforce; and

17 WHEREAS, Policies need to be established to encourage
18 collaboration between state and local workforce investment boards
19 and the stakeholders whom they serve, including businesses,
20 unions, nonprofit organizations, K-12 programs, career technical
21 education programs, basic skills programs, and systems of higher
22 education including community colleges; and

23 WHEREAS, Policies need to be established to link program
24 service delivery strategies to data analysis, ensuring that program
25 practices are evidence based; and

26 WHEREAS, Policies need to be established to ensure that
27 programs and services are outcome oriented and accountable,
28 measuring results for program participants, including outcomes
29 related to program completion, skills attainment, employment, and
30 earnings; and

31 WHEREAS, Policies need to be established to ensure that
32 programs are accessible to employers, workers, and students,
33 including disadvantaged populations and individuals with
34 employment barriers; and

35 WHEREAS, Congress should include measures in the WIA to
36 ensure that state and local workforce investment boards are
37 representative of relevant stakeholders, including business and
38 labor leaders from statewide, regional, and locally competitive or
39 emergent industry sectors; and

1 WHEREAS, Congress should include measures in the WIA to
2 utilize demand-driven strategies, including sector-based strategies,
3 that are connected to regional economies and labor markets,
4 particularly those strategies that link investment in skills attainment
5 with the skills needs of competitive or emergent industry sectors;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, Congress should include measures in the WIA to
8 expand opportunities for skills attainment, lifelong learning, and
9 enrollment in learn and earn programs which prepare workers for
10 jobs with a future; and

11 WHEREAS, Congress should include measures in the WIA to
12 ensure adequate funding for programs that have demonstrated
13 success in engaging at risk populations, including high risk youth,
14 and are instrumental in developing a competitive workforce. These
15 include career pathways programs, summer youth employment
16 programs, contextualized adult basic skills education and G.E.D.
17 literacy programs, vocational training, and incumbent worker
18 programs; and

19 WHEREAS, Congress should include measures in the WIA to
20 prioritize service strategies that target disadvantaged populations,
21 including strategies that expand outreach to immigrant
22 communities; and

23 WHEREAS, Congress should include measures in the WIA to
24 utilize service delivery models that are efficient and effective by
25 encouraging and strengthening collaborative partnerships that
26 leverage the infrastructures, expertise, and resources of service
27 providers, educational institutions, businesses and unions, and
28 other stakeholders. These may include, when appropriate, One-Stop
29 Career Centers or other service delivery models facilitating
30 individuals' access to employment programs, services and training
31 opportunities; and

32 WHEREAS, Congress should include measures in the WIA to
33 provide incentives for public-private partnerships; now, therefore,
34 be it

35 *Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of*
36 *California, jointly,* That the California State Legislature urges the
37 Congress of the United States to reauthorize the Workforce
38 Investment Act this year and include in it the policies and strategies
39 referenced above; and be it further

1 *Resolved*, That the California State Legislature calls on business
2 leaders to collaborate with the State Workforce Investment Board
3 and local workforce investment boards in California to coinvest
4 in workforce education and career exploration counseling for high
5 school students and workers of all ages and to work with education
6 and local leaders to develop appropriate curriculum that is
7 responsive to workforce trends and results in industry-recognized
8 credentials that have currency in the job market.

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